

The Genus *Viticis* in Amboina (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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(Presented at the meeting of March 2, 1939)

The genus *Viticis* Lea (Brachyderinae, Ottistirini) was erected for a Fijian species in 1930 (see my "Revision of the Fijian Ottistirini," Bishop Mus. Occ. Papers, 14(15): 306, 1939, for keys, descriptions, and discussion). I have recently described a second species from the island of Guam in the Mariannas (Curculionidae of Guam, in press). It is of considerable zoogeographic significance to record here a new species from the island of Amboina off the west end of Papua. I predicted in my paper on the Guam species that other species would be found in the region between Fiji and Guam; this is the first of those species to be discovered, and many others will surely follow.

The six-segmented antennal funicle together with the three-segmented tarsi which lack a claw-bearing segment make the genus an aberrant and easily recognized one.

I have the Department of Entomology of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association to thank for the opportunity of studying the following new species collected by one of their former employees:

Viticis maculosus, new species.

Female.—Derm black, diluted with red in parts; scaling white with a pearly lustre, arranged as follows: dense on the rostrum to the apex of the eyes, scattered on the crown of the head; prothorax with a conspicuous longitudinal arcuate vitta from base to apex beginning in front of elytral intervals four and five, about as broad as two intervals including a stria; elytra with well-isolated patches of scales, interval 1 with a few scattered scales in the middle half, 2 with an oblong patch at the base and an elongate patch at the apex, 3 evidently without squamae, 4 with a conspicuous patch at the distal third followed by a few scales near its apex, 5 with a conspicuous patch at the basal third and a few scales at its apex, 6 with a basal patch, another at about the apical third and with a few scales reaching over from the patch on the basal third of 5 and usually with a few scales at the apex, 7 not squamose, 8 with a few scales near the base, apical third and apex, 9 with a patch at the basal third, 10 squamose from the apical third to near the apex; legs with the femora and tibiae squamose above.

Head with the crown coarsely and densely punctate except at the base; front shallowly concave, less coarsely punctate than the crown, sides distinctly costiform, beginning at the apex of the eyes and extending well above the eyes on the crown, the costa rather strongly angulate on the sides and steeply declivitous above the eye; eyes as long as the distance between them. *Rostrum* evenly, straightly, strongly expanded from base to apex on the sides, distance between the eyes and apex slightly shorter than that across the apex which is rather evenly arcuate and one fourth broader than the narrowest interocular breadth; coarsely, densely, confluent punctate beyond the squamose front. *Antennae* with the scape as long as the first five funicular segments; funicle with the first segment globose, about as long as 2 plus half of 3, 2 very slightly

longer than 3, 3 slightly longer than 4, 4-7 successively slightly broader; club not quite as long as the scape. *Prothorax* subcylindrical, broader than long (1.3:1.0), slightly irregularly arcuate on the sides from base to apex, base indistinctly concave on either side, apex almost truncate; coarsely and densely punctured, the interstices making the surface appear quite rough, especially on the sides. *Elytra* two thirds as broad as long, three times as long as the prothorax, broadest just behind the middle; base deeply emarginate at the scutellum and from there strongly convex to the prominent humeri which form angles of about 45°, rather straight on the sides to about the middle thence rounded to the subapical constriction, apex broadly rounded; striae deep and coarse, as broad or broader than the intervals, their punctures large and conspicuously indented in the intervals; the tenth ending above the metacoxae; intervals convex, evidently without setae. *Legs* with the femora bidentate, with a larger tooth in the basal half, the other smaller or minute and at or beyond the middle, the basal tooth large on the fore femora, somewhat smaller on the middle pair and very much smaller on the hind pair; tibiae all arcuate, terminal unci well developed; fore tarsi with the third segment one third broader than long, not quite as long as the first two segments, convex distally and not distinctly indented at the middle. *Sternum* almost entirely devoid of vestiture; metasternum coarsely sculptured, distinctly longer between the mid and hind coxae than the breadth of a mesocoxa. *Venter* with the first two ventrites convex, rather shiny and with scattered punctures except for a row of dense coarse punctures along the basal margin of the first; three and four evidently impunctate; five hirsute, not coarsely punctured. Length: 2 mm.; breadth, 1 mm.

Amboina, Netherlands East Indies. Holotype female in Bishop Museum, collected in January 1908 by F. Muir.

The character of the scaling alone will readily distinguish this species from the other described members of its genus, because none of them are so conspicuously spotted. The costate sides of the front of the head and the dentition of the femora are other good specific characters. The species is most distinct and could not be confused with any other.